

9 "PERKS " OF DANIEL

By: Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist

And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed and of the princes; Children in whom was no blemish, but well favored, and skillful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans. And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king. Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azaria:" Dan. 1: 3-6.

About 600 years before the birth of Christ, Daniel experienced the challenge of living in a culture hostile to Godly values. He lived out his convictions, and proved the value of a Godly life. We also have the opportunity to be outstanding in our faith, and prove the ways of God are always better than the failures and slavery of mankind. I want you to see in these nine decisions how we can live in the Spirit of Daniel's God. Consider each carefully, and they will become your joyful experiences as well. **(1). He Purposed:** *"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.* This dear young lad was willing to take a stand against the pressure of the day. Modern day believers in Jesus Christ need to take a firm stand against all the evils that Satan orders before us each day. No believer can walk in daily victory without

refusing to become engulfed in the sin of the world around us. *"Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart,"* II Tim. 2:22. Make up your mind that evil movies, questionable TV, bad books, worldly music, sexual traps and all that is evil, you, by God's grace will not allow. Purpose in your heart that the Devil's evil will not have a chance to wreck your life. Choose to live a Godly life regardless of your surroundings, and walk a pleasing path with God. You can refuse that which is proven to be evil. **(2). He Proved:** *"Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink. And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat."* Dan 1: 12&15. The sad thing about most Christians is that we prove very little the things of God, for most are still occupied with the lusts of the world. You cannot testify that Jesus saves and keeps and satisfies, if you are still enjoying and practicing the garbage of the world. You will never be a soul winner until you prove the superior walk of a true believer is better. I say often, We are the only Bible our sinner friends may read. Are you walking proof of what God can do with His own? **(3). He Prospered:** *"And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm."* Dan. 1:20. Praise God, when you major in all that is right, and avoid the evil, the result is thrilling to behold. Don't let the worldly things chew away your prosperity as a living example of Christianity. The world will notice when you don't need the false diet of the world, and will notice you thrive on spiritual things. Your genuine Godly life will prove you are better than the most sin fed sinner. **(4). He Praised:** *Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:"* Dan.

2:20. Without whimpering about how hard it was to do right, Daniel praised the Lord for being on the right side. Let me urge you to never to miss an opportunity for testimony. Stand up and give glory to God for what He has done for you. These Bible young men had passed the test, and were thrilled about it. They stood up and gave God the glory. We could do more of that. **(5). He Was Promoted:** *"Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego, in the providence of Babylon. Dan. 3:30. Not only Daniel, but His three friends that stood with him after their fiery test, stood strong and appreciated by the king, and the mouths of evil men were stilled. In today's believers God looks for faithfulness under trial, and will bring great reward. He loves to shower His blessings on those who can emerge from testing still in victory, and keep serving the Lord. Take Him into the test with you, and all will come out rejoicing together. When you gain His approval there will always be new opportunities waiting. (6). He Was Preferred:* *"Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm."* Dan. 6:3. This was amazing to see the effect that his life and wise decisions had on the king. He had done so well the king wanted to make him in charge of everything in the kingdom. His attitude and wisdom was obvious to all the other leaders, some of whom sought to block his advancement. Opposition can be expected from the Devil's crowd when you excel for the glory of God. Expect it and don't be alarmed by it. **(7). He Was Persistent:** *"Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom, but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there found any error or fault found in him."* Dan. 6:4. This caused the evil men to try to figure out a way to destroy Daniel, and ruin his testimony before the nation. Many times I

think sinners in our world forget that our God is a great God who will back up, and support anyone that is true to Him. I often say, "God and I are a majority" and Daniel proved this daily in his devotion to God, and his testimony toward men. **(8). He Continued Praying:** *"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house, and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."* Dan. 6:10. Knowing the trap that the leaders had set to destroy him did not cause him to change in his acts of faith. Oh how we need Godly believers today, who will take an unchangeable stand in the time of testing. He knew the decree, and the threat of a den full of lions, but was convinced God could preserve him against all evil. That same assurance should captivate our actions in every kind of trial. **(9). He Perished Not:** *"My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me: and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. Dan. 6:22. The king, after a sleepless night, was so pleased that he threw the evil men and their families into the den. They were all devoured, and the triumphant life Daniel had lived was a great example for all men who followed. In these last days it is going to be more and more difficult to do right, and sinners' laws and actions will be against the righteous. It is wonderful to know we are not alone, and God protects His own. Life is never easy, but always goes better for those who live without compromise and sin. A dear song writer wrote the song, "Dare to be a Daniel." I hope and pray this sermon, and the events it outlined, will help you, like Daniel, to face the world, the problems it presents, and stand true to the faith of our fathers. God is able to deliver us from all evil. so as Dr. Bob Jones used to say, "Do right till the stars fall.*